

世界谚语精选

(英、汉
对照)

主编：蒋小平
副主编：徐晨光 彭一中 赵美

中南工业大学出版社

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前 言

谚语是一民族文化源远流长的结晶,它将该民族的思想意识、文化精神和生活哲理,以简练明了、形象鲜明的语言表现出来,读起来通俗易懂,情趣盎然。本书纵采世界各国广大民族的优秀谚语,题材全面,内容丰富,且具有代表性。

为了适应我国的广大读者,作为一本英、汉对照读物,我们在忠实原文、尽量体现其民族特色的前提下,以我国的文化为背景,对个别译文进行了适当调整,并注明各条谚语所属民族的出处。同时,为了查阅方便,我们用英、中文标出了各条谚语的主题词,并以主题词为线索,按英文字母的顺序排列各条谚语。另编排了一份中文索引,按中文笔画排列各条谚语的主题词。

所参考的书目有: Wolfgang Mieder, *Encyclopedia of World Proverbs*; W. G. Smith, *The Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs*; A. Johnson, *Common English Proverbs*; 雷航等编,《英语锦言妙语》;《英语世界》杂志(1980—1994)。

本书主编:蒋小平、徐晨光、彭一中、赵美,参加编译的人员还有:胡喜保、夏先国、胡碧纯、王丽。感谢湖南师范大学易仲良教授对本书整体编译工作的支持与鼓励。

限于编者的水平和经验,书中难免疏漏之处,恳请读者批评指正。

一九九六年元月

ACTION (行动, 行为)

Action is the proper fruit of knowledge.

行动是知识之佳果。 (英国)

Actions speak louder than words.

事实胜于雄辩; 行动比言语更响亮。 (美国)

AVARICE (贪心, 贪婪)

Avarice blinds Our eyes.

贪婪障人眼。 (印尼)

Avarice increases with wealth.

越富越贪。 (日本)

BAD (坏, 不好)

A bad thing never dies.

坏事传千年。 (俄罗斯)

Bad workmen often blame their tools.

拙匠常怪工具差。 (美国)

BETTER (胜于, 更好)

Better be the head of an ass than the tail of a horse.

宁为驴头, 不为马尾。 (英国)

Better late than never.

迟做总比不做好。 (中国)

Better master one than engage with ten.

与其通十样, 不如精一样。 (日本)

Better to do well than to say well.

说得好不如做得好。 (中国)

BLIND (盲, 看不见)

A blind man will not thank you for a looking glass.

瞎子不谢赠镜人。

(法国)

BLOOD (血)

Blood is thicker than water.

血浓于水。(或:疏不间亲。)

(日本)

BOOK (书)

Books, like friends, should be few and well chosen.

读书如择友,宜少且宜精。

(中国)

A book that remains shut is but a block.

书本不常翻,犹如一块砖。

(日本)

BOY (小孩, 男孩)

Boy will be boys.

孩子毕竟是孩子。(或:在母亲的眼里孩子是永远长不大的。)

(印度)

BUSINESS (事业, 职业)

Business is the salt of life.

事业是生命之盐。

(俄罗斯)

Business neglected is business lost.

忽视职业即放弃职业。

(日本)

CABBAGE (卷心菜, 洋白菜)

Better cabbage and peace than dainties and fretting.

吃小菜而生活平静,胜于吃美味佳肴而烦恼不堪。

(希腊)

He who would have good cabbage, must pay its price.

欲得好物,须付其价。

(丹麦)

CAGE (笼, 鸟笼)

In the estimation of the night - hawk, a cage of gold is a

prison.

照夜鹰看来,黄金做的笼子也是囚笼。 (土耳其)

CAKE (饼,糕)

Better is dry cake than having nothing to eat.

干饼子总比没有好。 (挪威)

CALAMITY (灾,灾难)

Calamity has no voice; suffering cannot speak to tell who is really in distress.

灾难无声,无法奉告遭难的人。 (非洲)

Someone else's calamity doesn't add to your own wisdom.

不经一事,不长一智。 (俄国)

CALENDAR (日历,年历)

The calendar is made by man; the weather by God.

为事在人,成事在天。 (瑞典)

CALF (牛,小牛)

A calf takes after its mother, and a foal after its father.

小牛学母样,小马学父样。 (印度)

A calf will not follow horses.

小牛不随马走。(或:物以类聚) (非洲)

Better my own ordinary calf than golden calves of others.

自己养的牛要比别人的金牛强。 (南韩)

CALLIGRAPHER (书法家)

The good calligrapher is not choosy about his writing brush.

好书法家不择笔。 (日本)

CALM (平静)

Always a calm before a storm.

暴风雨之前总是平静的。

(英国)

CANDLE (蜡烛)

The candle does not burn top and bottom.

蜡烛不能两头燃。

(牙买加)

CANE (甘蔗, 竹)

Think not because the cane is bent the sugar's crooked too.

不要以为甘蔗是弯的, 它的糖也不会甜。

(马来西亚)

CANOE (船, 独木船)

He who paddles two canoes, sinks.

划两条船的人会沉到水里。

(非洲)

Paddle your own canoe.

船要自己划。(或: 自己的事要靠自己做。)

(美国)

Who gives you a canoe, give him the leg and the wing.

人情一把锯, 他有来你有去。

(英国)

CAPTAIN (船长)

Many captains sink the ship.

船长多了反沉船。

(希腊)

The front car upset is a warning to the next car following.

前车之覆, 后车之鉴。

(南韩)

CARAVAN (车辆, 结队的车马)

A caravan does not turn back at the howling of a dog.

我行我素。

(土耳其)

Life's caravan never turns back.

人生之车不折回。 (非洲)

Cards are the devil's books.

赌博为万恶之源。 (英国)

CARE (小心, 谨慎; 忧虑, 烦恼)

Care and diligence bring luck.

谨慎勤奋, 幸福之本。 (英国)

Care is no cure.

悲伤治不了病。 (英国)

Care killed a cat.

忧虑伤身。 (英国)

Care never paid a pound of debt.

忧愁还不了债。 (英国)

Carefulness can go everywhere.

小心走天下。 (中国)

CARRIAGE (马车)

If the carriage be not greased, it does not move on.

马车不上润滑油, 就会走不动。 (土耳其)

CARROT (胡萝卜)

Only in dreams are the carrots as big as bears.

胡萝卜休想长成熊那么大。 (依地语)

CARRY (赢得)

He who carries nothing loses nothing.

无所得者无所失。 (法国)

CART (车, 手推车)

If you are sitting on his cart, you must sing his song.

入乡随俗。 (俄国)

The best cart may overthrow.

好车也有翻车时。 (英国)

Where there is a cart ahead there is a track behind.

前有车,后有辙。 (中国)

CASK (木桶)

Every cask smells of the wine it contains.

桶里装的是水,倒出来的就不会是酒。 (西班牙)

CASTLE (城堡)

The castle is not overthrown by precaution.

有备无患。 (日本)

The higher the castle, the nearer to the lightning.

城楼越高,越易遭雷击。 (俄国)

CAT (猫)

Cat and mouse cannot be neighbors long.

猫鼠难为邻。 (非洲)

He who begrudges the cat's food finds his clothes eaten by the mice.

吝惜喂猫的人,衣服被老鼠咬破。 (希腊)

The cat and dog may kiss yet are none the better friends.

猫狗可能亲嘴,但不会成为好朋友。 (英国)

The cat in gloves catches no mice.

戴手套的猫捉不到耗子。 (英国)

The cat would fain fish eat, but she has no will to wet her feet.

猫想吃鱼,又不愿湿脚。 (苏格兰)

The scalded cat fears cold water.

挨过烫的猫连冷水都害怕。 (英国)

When the cat is asleep the mice dance around.

猫睡耗子闹。 (依地语)

When the cat's away, it is jubilee with the mice.

猫儿不在耗子乐。 (荷兰)

Who is born of a cat will run after mice.

猫抓老鼠是它的本性。 (法国)

Young cats will mouse, young apes will louse.

小猫会捉耗子,小猴会捉虱子。 (荷兰)

CAUSE (理由,原因)

A good cause makes a stout heart and a strong arm.

有理则理直气壮。 (法国)

A good cause needs help.

有理还须有人帮。 (法国)

There is a cause for all things.

凡事都有起因。 (意大利)

CAUTION (小心,谨慎)

Better caution at first than tears afterwards.

与其事后哭泣,不如事前谨慎。 (依地语)

Caution brings speed in the end.

小心谨慎,万事皆顺。 (希伯来语)

In prosperity caution, in adversity patience.

处顺境要谨慎,处逆境要忍耐。 (荷兰)

CEMETERY (墓)

One passes by the cemetery so often that in the end one falls into it.

常从墓旁走,最终会掉进墓坑。(俄罗斯)

CHANCE (机会, 机遇)

Chance is a dicer.

机会就是赌徒。(英国)

He who does not take chances cannot expect to be rich.

从不冒险的人就别指望富裕。(菲律宾)

It is too late to grieve when the chance is past.

机会错过再悲伤,为时已晚。(英国)

CHANGE (变化, 改变)

Changes never answer the end.

见异思迁,事无结果。(英国)

Let it be worse, as long as it's a change.

七选八挑,挑个更糟的。(依地语)

CHAPTER (章)

The first chapter of fools is to esteem themselves wise.

自作聪明是作傻瓜的开始。(英国)

CHARACTER (性格, 个性)

A good character is the real beauty that never fades.

只有美德才是永不凋谢的真正的美。(菲律宾)

A man's character reaches town before his person.

未见其人,先闻其名。(丹麦)

Character does not change.

本性难移。(日本)

CHARM (魅力)

Charm is better than beauty.

魅力胜过美貌。(依地语)

CHASE (追, 追赶)

He who goes out to the chase without a greyhound comes home without a hare.

出门追猎不带狗, 返家仍是两手空空。 (土耳其)

He that chases another does not sit still himself.

追逐他人者, 自己坐不定。 (荷兰)

CHEAP (便宜)

What is cheap may also be bad.

便宜无好货。 (日本)

CHEAT (欺骗, 骗)

He who intends to cheat often cheats himself.

想骗人的人, 常常骗了自己。 (菲律宾)

CHERRY (樱桃)

Eat not cherries with the great.

不要与大人物一起吃樱桃。 (英国)

CHILD (小孩, 儿童)

A child does not know his father's poverty.

孩子不知道父亲的贫穷。 (非洲)

A child is a blessing for any man's roof.

孩子是每个家庭的幸福。 (罗马尼亚)

A child is a certain worry and an uncertain joy.

孩子是靠得住的烦恼, 靠不住的欢乐。 (瑞典)

A child places reliance on its mother.

孩子总是依靠妈妈。 (非洲)

DANGER (危险, 危机)

A danger foreseen is half avoided.

预见其患则患不足惧。 (罗马尼亚)

Danger is next neighbour to security.

危险是安全的紧邻。 (英国)

DEATH (死亡, 死)

Death before dishonour.

宁死不辱。 (俄罗斯)

Death is the grand leveller.

在死亡面前, 大家平等。 (日本)

The death of wolves is the safety of the sheep.

狼死群羊安。 (俄罗斯)

DEVIL (魔鬼, 鬼)

The devil may get in by the keyhole, but the door won't let him out.

魔鬼可以从锁孔里进来, 但开着门都放不出去。

(法国)

DOG (狗, 猎狗)

Dog does not eat dog.

同类不相残。 (意大利)

The dogs bark, but the cavalier goes on.

我行我素, 人言何干。 (美国)

Dogs wag their tail not so much in love to you as your bread.

狗摇着尾巴, 爱的是你的面包。 (法国)

A dog will not howl if you beat him with a bone.

肉骨头打狗狗不叫。 (中国)

FACE (脸, 脸面)

A clean face needs no water.

廉洁无需自我表白。(捷克)

A fair face cannot have a crabbed heart.

貌慈心自善。(英国)

A fair face is half a portion.

姑娘的美貌是一份天赋的嫁妆。(英国)

A fair face gets its praise, though the owner keep silent.

貌美不待自夸。(丹麦)

A good face is a letter of recommendation.

仪表端正等于自我推荐。(英国)

A good face needs no band.

好小子无需乐队吹打。(或:美姑娘无需土地陪嫁。)

(英国)

A good face needs no paint.

貌美不需打扮。(英国)

A lovely face does not need adornment.

可爱的脸蛋无需珍珠装扮。[非洲(斯瓦西里语)]

A smiling face is even better than hospitality.

一笑能顶百勤。(黎巴嫩)

A smiling face removes unhappiness.

一笑能解百愁。[非洲(豪萨语)]

Better a red face than a black heart.

恶脸不可怕,黑心害死人。(葡萄牙)

Do not show on your face what you feel in your heart.

心里有事勿往脸上露。[非洲(斯瓦希里语)]

If you stay too near the fire, your face will get burned.

近火先焦。 (越南)

One's face is the mirror of one's soul.

脸是心灵的镜子。 (墨西哥)

The face is index of the heart.

面孔是心灵的标志。 (英国)

The face of an official is cold.

清官铁面无私。 (土耳其)

The fairest face, the falsest heart.

蛇越美越毒,人越乖越假。 (苏格兰)

We know men's faces, not their minds.

知人知面不知心。 (中国)

We see faces, we do not see hearts.

人面易知,人心难测。 (墨西哥)

FACT (事实)

Facts are facts.

事实是不容改变的。 (美国)

Facts are stranger than fiction.

有的事实比虚构更离奇。 (美国)

Facts are stubborn things.

事实就是事实,是不可否定的。 (英国)

Facts speak for themselves.

事实本身是不容争辩的。 (美国)

Facts speak louder than words.

事实胜于雄辩。 (美国)

FAGOT (柴捆)

There are fagots and fagots.

柴多不怕熄火。 (法国)

FAIL (失败)

He who never fails will never grow rich.

不遭挫折, 不长知识。 (英国)

FAILURE (失败)

Failure is the source of success.

失败是成功之母。 (日本)

FAIR (美丽的, 漂亮的)

All that's fair must fade.

花好终有雕谢时。 (意大利)

Fair and softly goes far.

温柔天下去得, 刚强寸步难移。 (法国)

Every one speaks of the fair as he himself finds it.

萝卜白菜, 各有所爱。 (西班牙)

With a fairy tale and with a lie you can bull only children to sleep.

谎言和神话只能骗得了小孩。 (依地语)

FAITH (信心, 信念)

Faith can move mountains.

人心坚, 石山穿。 (俄国)

Faith in medicine makes it effectual.

信医医则灵。 [印度(泰米尔语)]

Faith makes god of stone.

人铁了心, 神仙也无可奈何。 [印度(比哈尔语)]

Faith sees by ears.

有志立在心里, 而不是挂在口头上。 (英国)